



Planning Commission  
City of Tucson  
201 N. Stone Ave.  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Attn.: Planning and Development Services Department

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) to provide comment on the proposed code change by the City of Tucson that would allow helipads as a by-right accessory use at major medical facilities, i.e. hospitals. AzHHA is a statewide association of more than 80 hospital, healthcare and affiliated health system members—several of whom are located in the Tucson area.

In our experience, helipads are a crucial infrastructure for modern-day medical facilities that provide acute care services. Helipads allow air ambulances to safely and efficiently transport emergency patients from the scene of an accident to a hospital. They also facilitate the transfer of critically ill patients from one hospital to another should the need for air transport arise. Helipads are so integral to the operations of major acute care and emergency services that we are not aware of any licensed general acute care hospital or critical access hospital in the state that does not have a helipad on its premises.

We applaud the City of Tucson Planning Commission for exploring the opportunity to modernize the City's code to allow helipads as a "by right" accessory use for hospitals that meet specified criteria, while respecting the property rights of others. The proposed change will align the code with other jurisdictions around the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this proposal. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 602-445-4304.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Debbie Johnston'.

Debbie Johnston  
Senior Vice President, Policy Development